

REMARKS

Claims 22-33 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner has accepted the drawings filed on June 29, 2000, subject to the correction of the informalities indicated on the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review. Applicant has included drawings herewith that address each of the informalities cited in the Notice. The objection to the drawings, therefore, should be moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 30 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ouderkirk (U.S. Pat. No. 5,828,488). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 30 and 32 have been amended to call for the light diffuser to have a number of at least one of dimples and projections which diffuse and reflect a light ray coming in from the first reflective polarizer, while transmitting a light ray coming from the lighting apparatus toward the first reflective polarizer. Ouderkirk does not disclose a light diffuser that includes at least one of dimples and projections. Ouderkirk, therefore, does not anticipate claims 30 and 32. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 22-27, 31, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ouderkirk et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,828,488) in view of Iijima et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,359,668). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner alleges that it would have been obvious to adapt the device configuration of Iijima into the device of Ouderkirk in order to eliminate the positive-negative type of reversal between a transmissive display mode and a reflective display mode. Applicant respectfully asserts, however, that the combination proposed by the Examiner does not yield the claimed invention.

Referring to Figures 4 and 5 of Iijima, a light guide plate 130 comprises projections 132 on a surface 134. These projections 132 face downward and reflect light 122 towards surface 134 so that object 150 is illuminated. In contrast, the independent claim 22 calls for a lighting device that has a number of at least one of dimples and projections on a surface thereof on the viewer's side of the lighting device opposite to the light reflective device. More particularly, the dimples and projections face upward. As such, the proposed combination of Ouderkirk and Iijima does not yield the claimed invention and, therefore, is not proper. Moreover, there is no suggestion or motivation contained in Iijima to utilize dimples and projections on a surface of the lighting device that is opposite to the surface of the lighting device proximate the light reflective device. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the claimed invention is not obvious.

Claims 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ouderkirk et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,828,488) in view of Broer et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,359,670). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

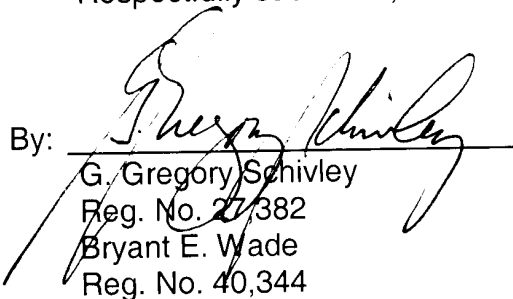
Claims 28 and 29 are dependent on independent claim 22, addressed above. As such, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 28 and 29 are not obvious for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Feb 25, 2003

By: 
G. Gregory Schivley
Reg. No. 27,382
Bryant E. Wade
Reg. No. 40,344

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

GGs/BEW/JAH

ATTACHMENT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following is a marked up version of each amended claim in which underlines indicates insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

22. (Twice Amended) A display device comprising:

a polarization axis varying device;

a first polarizing splitter device disposed on one side of said polarization axis varying device and which transmits a light ray component linearly polarized in a first direction while reflecting or absorbing a light ray component linearly polarized in a predetermined direction different from said first direction;

a second polarizing splitter device, disposed on the other side of said polarization axis varying device and which reflects a light ray component linearly polarized in a second direction while transmitting a light ray component linearly polarized in a predetermined direction different from said second direction; [and]

a lighting device disposed on the side of said second polarizing splitter device opposite to said polarization axis varying device[,]; and

a light reflective device, disposed on the side of said lighting device opposite to said second polarizing splitter device;

wherein said lighting device has a number of a least one of dimples and projections on a surface thereof on the viewer's side of the lighting device opposite to the light reflective device, and said surface also serving as a light diffusing plate diffusing and reflecting a light ray coming in from said second polarizing splitter device, while outputting a light ray toward said second polarizing splitter device.

30. (Amended) A display device comprising:

a liquid-crystal display panel having a liquid crystal interposed between a pair of substrates;

a polarizer disposed on one side of said liquid-crystal display panel;

a first reflective polarizer disposed on the other side of said liquid crystal display panel; and

a lighting apparatus disposed on the side of said first reflective polarizer opposite to the polarizer;

wherein said lighting apparatus includes a light diffuser at a surface thereof, said light diffuser having a number of a least one of dimples and projections which [diffusing] diffuse and [reflecting] reflect a light ray coming in from said first reflective polarizer, while transmitting a light ray coming from said lighting apparatus toward said first reflective polarizer.

32. (Amended) An electronic apparatus having a display device with a liquid crystal display panel as a display unit, said display device comprising:

a liquid crystal display panel having a liquid crystal interposed between a pair of substrates;

a polarizer disposed on one side of said liquid crystal display panel;

a first reflective polarizer disposed on the other side of said liquid crystal display panel; and

a lighting apparatus disposed on the side of first reflective polarizer opposite to the polarizer;

wherein said lighting apparatus includes a light diffuser at a surface thereof, said light diffuser having a number of a least one of dimples and projections which [diffusing] diffuse and [reflecting] reflect a light ray coming in from said first reflective polarizer, while transmitting a light ray coming in from said lighting apparatus toward said first reflective polarizer.